

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 132963
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:DPSULLIVAN:CMD
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EA:RBOAKLEY
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S/S: SESTEINER

-----090042Z 123807 /14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132963

EXDIS - FOR STULL FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS SPEECHES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) MANILA 8729 (B) MANILA 8725

1. MARCOS SPEECH TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION STRIKES US AS HAVING BEEN CAREFULLY WORDED TO APPEAR TO PROMISE MORE THAN IT ACTUALLY DOES. TEXT CONTAINS SUFFICIENT LOOPHOLES THAT WE ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO EMBRACE IT AS ANNOUNCED "SOLUTION" TO EXISTING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY IT IS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE AS SIGN OF MARCOS' AWARENESS THAT PROBLEMS NEED TO BE RESOLVED. BEFORE SECRETARY SENDS LETTER TO MARCOS AS YOU SUGGESTED, WE WISH TO HAVE CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN OR WILL BE
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TAKEN AND WHEN.

2. TEXT OF DECREE ON PHASING OUT MILITARY TRIBUNALS, WHEN ISSUED, MAY PERHAPS CLARIFY HOW MANY CASES WILL BE "EXPEDITED" AND HOW MANY WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO CIVIL COURTS. LIKEWISE, INFORMATION MAY BECOME AVAILABLE TO INDICATE HOW MANY DETAINEES NOT CHARGED AS OF AFTERNOON JUNE 3 WERE

RELEASED OR HOW MANY NOT YET GIVEN PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION ARE TRANSFERRED TO CIVIL COURTS. FINALLY, WE ARE AWAITING OUTCOME OF HERRERA INVESTIGATION, WHICH APPEARS

TO BE MOVING SLOWLY IF AT ALL DESPITE YOUR EFFORTS.

3. WE BELIEVE MOST APPROPRIATE USG RESPONSE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE ORAL MESSAGE FROM ME WHICH YOU SHOULD SEEK TO CONVEY TO MARCOS ASAP. THRUST OF MESSAGE AS FOLLOWS:

A. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH MARCOS DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO MANILA, I HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST HIS TWO RECENT SPEECHES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE WELCOME AND APPRECIATE THESE FORTHRIGHT STATEMENTS AS ENCOURAGING EVIDENCE OF HIS INTENT TO MOVE POSITIVELY AND AFFIRMATIVELY TOWARD THE IMPROVEMENT OF THOSE CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE COMPLICATED THE ABILITY OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER ON OTHER MATTERS. I HAVE BROUGHT THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF SEC. VANCE AND THE PRESIDENT.

B. IT SEEMS TO ME IMPORTANT, IN ORDER TO REALIZE THE FULL POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, THAT THE DECISIONS ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION AND THE PRELIMINARY ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE OF MRS. HERRERA BE TRANSLATED QUICKLY INTO VISIBLE RESULTS WHICH WILL CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE TO ALL CONCERNED EFFECTIVE PRACTICAL PROGRESS IN DEALING PROMPTLY, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH DUE PROCESS, WITH DETAINED PERSONS. THIS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN CONNECTION WITH THOSE

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ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ENSURE THE ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITIONS AGAINST MALTREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS.

C. PRESIDENT MARCOS' ELOQUENT AFFIRMATION OF HIS COMMITMENT TO "THE FULL RENDERING OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN WELFARE" REINFORCES OUR CONVICTION THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY AND IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT IN THE CRITICAL AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. HE CAN BE ASSURED OF A SYMPATHETIC RESPONSE TO HIS PLEA THAT THE UNITED STATES REACH OUT TO UNDERSTAND THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT OBTAIN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND CONDITION THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD THAT GOAL. WE WILL WORK CLOSELY AND SYMPATHETICALLY WITH THE PHILIPPINES TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS IN THAT AREA. VANCE

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